

SUBJECT: Restroom Floors

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2002 **REVISED:** July 2004

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: ADM – 1.1210.1 (Formerly 1.0807.1)

SEE ALSO: 2003 IBC – Section 1210.1

INTERPRETATION SUMMARY

This section of the code requires that restroom floors are to be smooth, hard nonabsorbent surfaces, and that such surfaces are to extend upward onto the adjoining walls to a height of at least 6". The question has been asked if commercial-grade, rubber coved base is an acceptable material to meet the requirements of this section. This material has been routinely used in conjunction with vinyl floors as an alternate to using self-coving vinyl. It is our opinion that the rubber base is as nonabsorbent and durable as vinyl, and is coved to meet the code intent of not presenting a sharp corner at the floor that would be difficult to clean. It is not the intent of this provision that the floor must be waterproof like a shower pan, but that it be impervious to water when the floor is mopped. Again, the intent of extending the protection up onto the wall is a recognition of the obvious fact that when the floor is mopped some water will get on the wall. Therefore, it is the policy of this Department to allow the rubber base to be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.